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Southern District of West Virginia**

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**HUNTINGTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL FIREARMS POSSESSION AND  
COUNTERFEITING CHARGES**

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – Joshua Douglas Hatten, 21, of Huntington, pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers, to being a felon in possession of firearms and to making counterfeit Federal Reserve Notes. Hatten admitted that he knowingly sold firearms, controlled substances, and counterfeit Federal Reserve Notes (CFRN) to undercover agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) on various dates between September and October 2010. On or about September 24, 2010, the defendant admitted to selling two .380 caliber pistols to an undercover ATF agent in exchange for \$200. On or about September 28, 2010, the defendant further admitted to selling a .308 caliber rifle to an undercover ATF agent in exchange for \$350. On or about October 19, 2010, Hatten sold a 9-millimeter pistol to an undercover ATF agent for \$175 and on or about October 19 and 28, 2010, the defendant sold counterfeit Federal Reserve Notes to an undercover agent.

On November 1, 2010, Hatten was driving a vehicle that was stopped in or near Huntington by a trooper from the West Virginia State Police. During the traffic stop, the defendant and his associate were subsequently found to be in possession of counterfeit money. That same day, investigators executed a search warrant at the defendant's Huntington residence where they seized an all-in-one printer, high-quality linen paper, counterfeit Federal Reserve Notes and other materials commonly used to manufacture counterfeit currency. In January, investigators executed a second search warrant at Hatten's Huntington residence where they seized additional quantities of counterfeit currency and a Norinco SKS assault rifle, among other items. Hatten waived his Miranda rights and admitted to making and passing counterfeit Federal Reserve Notes in and around Huntington and elsewhere.

Hatten was prohibited from possessing a firearm based on prior felony convictions on or about January 7, 2007. Hatten faces up to 30 years in prison and a \$500,000 fine when he is sentenced on August 22, 2011.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), U.S. Secret Service, Huntington Police Department and the West Virginia State Police. Assistant United States Attorney Josh Hanks is in charge of the prosecution.

This case is being prosecuted as part of a yearlong undercover operation that targeted illegal drugs and firearms crimes in the Huntington area. The operation was led by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and assisted by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Huntington Police Department, and various other law enforcement agencies. It was announced to the public in March after a grand jury returned indictments against 55 defendants.

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## **HUNTINGTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES**

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – Sontez Desaun Lomax, 31, of Huntington, pleaded guilty today in federal court before United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers, to distribution of cocaine base, also known as “crack.” The defendant admitted to meeting with an undercover ATF agent at Smokin’ Aces which was located in Huntington and advised the agent that he could provide cocaine at a price of \$1,300 per ounce. Lomax further admitted that on or about September 9, 2010, he gave the undercover agent what he represented to be two ounces of cocaine in exchange for \$2,600. A subsequent laboratory test identified the substance as crack cocaine.

Lomax faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$ 1 million fine when he is sentenced on August 22, 2011.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and Huntington Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Josh Hanks is in charge of the prosecution.

This case is being prosecuted as part of a yearlong undercover operation that targeted illegal drugs and firearms crimes in the Huntington area. The operation was led by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and assisted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the Huntington Police Department, and various other law enforcement agencies. It was announced to the public in March after a grand jury returned indictments against 55 defendants.

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